

February 16, 2017

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing Testimony

Written testimony of Janice E. Favreau – mother of head injury survivor - Christopher

Good Evening Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations Committee. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS. In his proposal, the Governor seeks to reduce funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line item, which includes the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut, by 20%.

A reduction of 20% to the operating budget of BIAC would essentially devastate this organization and make it impossible for them to provide services to an ever growing population of Traumatically Brain Injured Survivors. Brain injury can be caused by a number of sources such as, motor vehicle accidents, disease or sports injuries. Veterans and those suffering from sports injuries have caused major increases in the number persons being diagnosed with head injury. This is NOT time for a reduction in services!

Over the years, BIAC has done the best it could to accommodate the constant shrinking of its budget and enjoined a number of cost saving measures. But an across the board 20% cut at time when it services are needed more than ever – would be egregious and leave head injury survivors with little to no resources upon discharge.

Survivors are NOT charged for the services BIAC provides to them. And no other organization does what BIAC is doing. Which is exactly why DSS contracts directly with BIAC to provide the many essential services is not equipped to offer.

The cost to the State to for BIAC it to provide these services is only \$104,228!

It is critically important that the funding for BIAC's services be maintained.

Please support BIAC and its current budget.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this important matter.

Janice E. Favreau
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